

Pesticide Safety *Information*

Worker Health and Safety Branch

Series A

A-2 PESTICIDE STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL In Agricultural Settings

General Information:

This leaflet describes general methods and requirements for proper storage, transportation, and disposal of pesticides and containers. The following simple precautions will drastically reduce the number of accidental pesticide poisonings, especially those involving children.

- Keep pesticides in their original containers.
- Never put pesticides in containers used for food, drink, or household products.
- DO NOT take home or use around your home any pesticide used at work.



Storage:

Properly store or keep pesticides and empty containers under direct personal control at all times. Direct personal control means a responsible person who can prevent contact by unapproved persons. A responsible person must have the pesticide(s) in sight, if under direct personal control and adjacent to a road or populated area. Acceptable pesticide storage includes:

- a locked, fenced area
- a lockable storage compartment
- a locked truck or trailer with side racks (the tops of the racks should be a minimum of six feet above the ground).

Keep storage areas clean, dry, ventilated and adequately lighted. Read and follow storage requirements explained on the label. If pesticides are stored with fertilizers, keep the two separated. Pesticides and fertilizers might react chemically and result in a fire. If pesticides contaminate fertilizers, there also exists the possibility of crop damage or

residues on produce sent to market. Do not store pesticides near food, feed or personal protective equipment because of contamination.

Your employer may need a hazardous waste facility permit, if he/she stores pesticide waste, such as old products or unrinsed containers. For more information about specific requirements, contact the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), Department of Toxic Substances Control. The telephone number can be found in the Government Pages of your telephone book.

Storage Posting Requirements. Post warning signs on all storage areas containing pesticides (or empty containers) with the signal words "DANGER" or "WARNING" on the label. Post signs on all directions of possible approach. You must be able to read the sign from 25 feet away. These signs must state:

DANGER
POISON STORAGE AREA
ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT
KEEP DOOR LOCKED WHEN NOT IN USE

Transportation:

To transport pesticides safely you must follow these simple procedures.

- Do not transport pesticides in the same compartment with a person, food, or animal feed.
- Transport pesticides in a secure upright position.
- Tightly close containers to prevent spillage.
- All containers must be labeled.
- This labeling must be the original product labeling or service container labeling.
- Service container labeling requires the name and address of the person responsible for the container, the common name of the pesticide and the signal word from the original label.

There may be other regulations to follow when transporting hazardous materials. As a general rule, consult the California Highway Patrol, Motor Carrier Safety Unit when transporting more pesticides than you will use in a few days. Their telephone number can be found in the Government Pages of your telephone book.

Rinsing:

All containers under 28 gallons, must be rinsed at the time of use, unless they are returned to the registrant or the pesticide is not diluted during use. There are two rinsing procedures. Follow one of them to ensure you have properly rinsed containers.

Procedure #1:

1. For containers smaller than 5 gallons, use enough water to fill the container $\frac{1}{4}$ full. For larger containers, use enough water to fill it one-fifth full.
2. Put the appropriate amount of water into the container. Close the container securely and agitate.
3. Drain the solution into the mix tank. Allow the container to empty completely.
4. Repeat steps 1 - 3 a minimum of 2 more times.

Procedure #2:

1. Turn the empty container over and place the opening over a nozzle. This nozzle must be located in the opening of the mix tank so the liquid will drain into the tank. The nozzle must be able to rinse all inner surfaces of the container.

2. Turn the nozzle on and rinse until the water coming from the container is clear. Use a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ the container volume of water.

You may use other rinsing procedures, if they have been approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Disposal:

Dispose of all empty pesticide containers in a manner approved by the Cal/EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control. Take all glass, plastic, or metal containers to an approved disposal site. DO NOT BURY ANY PESTICIDE CONTAINER.



For information on local requirements, contact the local agricultural commissioner. In many counties, people must possess a permit or certificate issued by the commissioner to dispose of rinsed containers.

This leaflet assists readers in understanding pesticide regulations. It is not a legal document. The legal reference can be found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 3. The words "must" and "should" used in the text are not the same. The word "must" means the action is required and comes from California regulations. The word "should" means additional handling practices that are recommended to further reduce exposure.